

April 8, 2013

Mr. Matthew B. Cross Assistant City Attorney City of El Paso P.O. Box 1890 El Paso, Texas 79950-1890

OR2013-05584

Dear Mr. Cross:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 487691.

The El Paso Police Department (the "department") received a request for information pertaining to specified traffic accidents. You claim the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision" and encompasses information made confidential by statute. Gov't Code § 552.101. Section 550.065(b) of the Transportation Code states that except as provided by subsection (c), accident reports are privileged and confidential. See Transp. Code § 550.065. Section 550.065(c)(4) provides for the release of accident reports to a person who provides two of the following three pieces of information: (1) date of the accident; (2) name of any person involved in the accident; and (3) specific location of the accident. Id. § 550.065(c)(4). The requestor has not provided the department with two of the three requisite pieces of

information specified by the statute. Accordingly, the department must withhold the submitted CR-3 accident reports under section 550.065(b) of the Transportation Code in conjunction with section 552.101 of the Government Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <a href="http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\_orl.php">http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\_orl.php</a>, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

AdMara # Itallenal

Tamara H. Holland

Assistant Attorney General Open Records Division

THH/ac

Ref: ID# 487691

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor

(w/o enclosures)